

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
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EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE (MR. CLIFT)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CA
SUBJECT: MEETING OF U.S. SENATORS WITH CANADIAN COUNTER-PARTS DURING VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT

1. DURING HIS VISIT TO OTTAWA ON JANUARY 17, VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY THREE U.S. SENATORS: ROBERT STAFFORD OF VERMONT, WALTER HATHAWAY OF MAINE AND WENDELL ANDERSON OF MINNESOTA. FROM 3:00 TO 3:45 P.M. (WHILE THE VICE PRESIDENT WAS MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU), THE SENATORS MET WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT:

SPEAKER OF THE SENATE RENAUME LAPOINTE
SENATOR GEORGE VAN ROGGEN (CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS)
SENATOR JACQUES FLYNN (PC LEADER IN THE SENATE)
SENATOR DANIEL LANG (LIB.)
MP HERB BREAU (LIB.)
MP WALTER BAKER (PC LEADER IN THE HOUSE)
MP MARK MACGUIGAN (LIB.)
MP IAN WATSON (LIB.)
MP DAVID MACDONALD (PC)

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2. SENATOR ANDERSON OPENED THE DISCUSSION BY REFERRING TO THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT POSED BY THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A COAL-BURNING POWER STATION AT ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO TO THE BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA OF MINNESOTA. HE SAID THE FACTS OF THE SITUATION ARE SOMEWHAT IN DISPUTE, AND THAT SOME STUDIES SUGGEST THERE WOULD BE

NO POLLUTION DAMAGE. HOWEVER, THE ISSUE IS OF GREAT INTEREST IN MINNESOTA AND HE THOUGHT THAT AS A MINIMUM BOTH COUNTRIES SHOULD BE WORKING FROM THE SAME DATA BASE. HE POINTED OUT THAT CITIZENS IN MINNESOTA ARE SYMPATHETIC TO THE CONCERNS OF MANITOBA ABOUT THE GARRISON DIVERSION, AND ALSO THAT IN THE U.S. A COMPANY WHICH HAS BEEN DUMPING TAILINGS INTO LAKE SUPERIOR SINCE 1954 HAS BEEN OBLIGED UNDER LAW TO CREATE A NEW FACILITY (AT A COST OF DOLS 385 MILLION) TO RECEIVE THESE TAILINGS ON SHORE SO THAT THEY WOULD NO LONGER POLLUTE THE LAKE.

3. MP MACGUIGAN EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING, AND RAISED ANOTHER ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM IN HIS OWN CONSTITUENCY, RELATING TO UNEASINESS OVER A PLAN IN MICHIGAN TO BURN PCB'S IN AN ABANDONED CEMENT PLANT, A PRACTICE WHICH MAY NOT BE SAFE.

4. MP WATSON SAID THAT HE HAD NOT STUDIED THE ATIKOKAN ISSUE IN DETAIL, BUT HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE EARLY FINDINGS OF EPCA MAY HAVE BEEN INCORRECT. SENATOR ANDERSON CONFIRMED THIS POINT BUT RE-EMPHASIZED THE NECESSITY FOR BOTH SIDES TO HAVE ACCURATE FACTS.

5. MP WATSON SUGGESTED THAT THE DISCREPANCIES IN DATA BE RESOLVED BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CANADIAN/U.S. INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION THREE WEEKS HENCE.

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MACDONALD AND SENATOR HATHAWAY SUPPORTED THIS SUGGESTION.

6. SENATOR STAFFORD SUGGESTED -- AND IT WAS AGREED -- THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE AT THE IPU MEETING A SUMMARY OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE U.S. CLEAN AIR BILL WHICH WERE PASSED IN 1977.

7. SENATOR VAN ROGGEN AGREED THAT THE IPU MEETING SHOULD ADDRESS THE ATIKOKAN QUESTION. HE POINTED OUT THAT IT MAY BE PREMATURE TO SEND THIS ISSUE TO THE IJC WHICH IN HIS VIEW SHOULD BE A REFERENCE OF LAST RESORT. HE REFERRED TO THE PROBLEM AT SKAGIT AND SAID WE SHOULD SOLVE SUCH ISSUES SEPARATELY AND ON THEIR INDIVIDUAL MERITS RATHER THAN LINKING ONE PROBLEM TO ANOTHER.

8. ON THE MATTER OF LINKAGE, SENATOR HATHAWAY POINTED OUT THAT WHILE IT IS DESIRABLE TO AVOID LINKAGE IT MAY NOT BE POLITICALLY POSSIBLE. HE NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE U.S. HOUSE AND SENATE LINK THE IMPACT OF BILL C-58 WITH CANADIAN CONCERN OVER OUR CONVENTION TAX LEGISLATION.

9. SENATOR VAN ROGGEN OBSERVED THAT IN A RELATIONSHIP AS BIG AS THAT OF THE U.S. AND CANADA, THE PRACTICE OF LINKAGE WOULD LEAD US DOWN A TUNNEL FROM WHICH WE COULD NEVER ESCAPE. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE CRITICIZED

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 OTTAWA 00286

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PREMIER LOUGHEED'S EFFORTS TO LINK GAS EXPORTS WITH AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS. HE DREW A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN LINKAGE AND LEGITIMATE INTERCONNECTION, AS FOR EXAMPLE, NATURAL GAS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS. HE ADDED PARENTHETICALLY THAT HE HAD OPPOSED BILL C-58 IN BOTH THE LIBERAL CAUCUS AND THE SENATE BECAUSE HE FELT IT TOOK A WRONG APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE THOUGHT THE U.S. MUST RECOGNIZE THAT CANADA CANNOT ACCEPT TOTAL FREEDOM IN THE AREA OF COMMUNICATIONS BECAUSE IF THAT WERE TO OCCUR, 123 MILLION AMERICANS WOULD "SWAMP" 23 MILLION CANADIANS. HE THEREFORE MADE A STRENUOUS PLEA THAT THE CONGRESS NOT TIE C-58 TO THE CONVENTION TAX BECAUSE THE ISSUES ARE INHERENTLY UNRELATED.

10. SENATOR HATHAWAY STRESSED THAT AMERICAN CONCERN WAS WITH CANADIAN LEGISLATION ELIMINATING ADVERTISING ON U.S. TV STATIONS AS A LEGITIMATE BUSINESS EXPENSE. SENATOR STAFFORD NOTED THAT TV STATIONS IN HIS STATE HAVE THIS PROBLEM AS WELL. MP WATSON SUGGESTED THAT THIS ISSUE SHOULD ALSO BE ON THE AGENDA FOR THE IPU MEETING. SENATOR LANG SAID HE THOUGHT THE IPU WAS ALREADY COMMITTED TO REPORTING ON THE ISSUE. SENATOR VAN ROGGEN SAID THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED

THE ISSUE BUT HE DID NOT THINK THAT THEY HAD DONE SO
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IN SUFFICIENT DEPTH.

11. TURNING TO ANOTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE, SENATOR HATHAWAY MENTIONED THAT HE AND SENATOR MUSKIE ARE IN FAVOR OF LINCOLN DICKEY PROJECT. THE MATTER OF A REFINERY IN EASTPORT, MAINE, REMAINS UNDECIDED SINCE THE EPA HAS NOT ISSUED AN IMPACT STATEMENT. HE SAID THAT THERE REMAINS SOME QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE SEAWARD ENTRANCE IS THROUGH INTERNATIONAL OR THROUGH CANADIAN WATERS.

12. THE MEETING CONCLUDED WITH A GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE RESUMED AT THE IPU MEETING. ENDERS

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